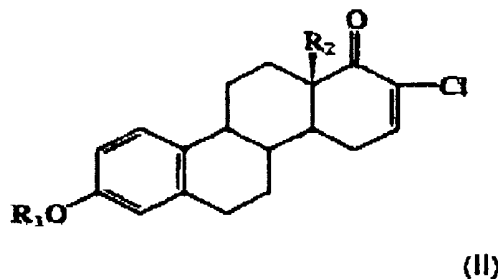


**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following material to the specification on page 13, first line.

The compounds of formula I can be prepared by a process characterized in that a 17-chloro-1,3,5(10),16-tetraene-17-one of general formula II

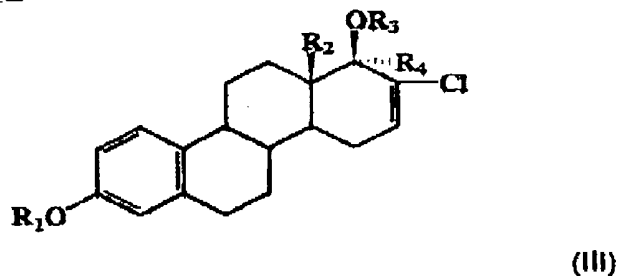


in which

R<sub>1</sub> means a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl radical, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkanoyl radical or benzoyl radical,

R<sub>2</sub> means C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

is converted with a magnesium-organic reagent of general formula BrMg alkyl, BrMg alkenyl or BrMg alkynyl or with acetylene or an alkyl- or aryl-substituted acetylene in the presence of bases such as tert-BuOk or with a lithium-organic compound such as LiC<sub>2</sub>F<sub>5</sub>, or with a silicon-organic compound such as trifluoromethyl trimethylsilane into a 17α-substituted compound of general formula III,



in which

$R_1$  is a hydrogen atom, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl radical, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkanoyl radical or a benzoyl radical,

$R_2$  is a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group,

$R_3$  is a hydrogen atom, a metal atom or a silyl group, and

$R_4$  is a hydrogen atom, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group, a  $C_nF_{2n+1}$  group, in which  $n=1, 2$  or

3, or a  $C\equiv CR_5$  group, in which  $R_5$  is a hydrogen atom, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl radical,

whereby in the case of  $R_5 = \text{hydrogen}$ , the free 17 $\alpha$ -ethynyl compound of general formula III is further modified by a SONAGASHIRA reaction to form compounds with  $R_5 = C_6H_4R_6$ , in which  $R_6$  stands for a free or substituted hydroxyl group, amino group, thiol group, sulfamate group, sulfonyl group or a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group or  $C_{6-12}$  aryl group.

In another aspect, the compounds of formula III in which  $R_1$  is a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl radical, are converted by ether cleavage into the free hydroxyl group.

In another aspect, the compounds of formula III, in which  $R_1$  is an acyl radical, are converted by ether cleavage into the free hydroxyl groups.

In another aspect, the compounds of formula III, in which  $R_3$  is a hydrogen atom, are converted into ethers or esters.